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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 439

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★ MAY 13 1942 ★

MAY 8 1942
U.S. Department of Agriculture

SECRETARY HULL ANNOUNCES SHIPPING POOL to expedite trade of Americas. Formation of pool to alleviate growing merchant marine problem of the Western Hemisphere disclosed by Secretary of State and Uruguayan Ambassador Juan Carlos Blanco. Uruguay is donating one vessel to the pool. A reservoir of more than a million tons of shipping would be created if all the Latin American nations threw their merchant ship tonnage into a pool. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

SHIPPING PRIORITIES SYSTEM ON GOODS FOR LATIN AMERICA announced by State Department, Board of Economic Warfare and Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. System designed to "expedite the production in the other American republics of materials required for the war program, as well as providing shipping facilities to take care of essential needs of our neighboring republics." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH responds to trainee plan sponsored by Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Experiment, carried on for years by private industry, has been broadened, with panels of candidates submitted from all but 6 of the 20 Latin American countries. Expenses of trainees are paid by U.S. in belief this country will benefit ultimately through better foreign friends. Mario Gutiérrez Jiménez, 21, from Costa Rica will study corn, powdered milk and dairying, beginning work at Department of Agriculture's Beltsville research center. (John Lear in Washington Star)

WAR REMOVES BANANAS FROM D.C. GROCERIES. Ships which formerly carried bananas are now being used for other cargoes, and the bananas are being used to grease shipyard ways, rather than more valuable greases needed elsewhere in the war effort. (Washington Post)

EXCHANGE OF SURPLUS FOODSTUFFS in the Western Hemisphere urged to aid Americas. Mordecai Ezekiel, economic adviser to Secretary of Agriculture, tells delegates at eighth Pan American Child Congress that "as the system of government subsidies for adequate nutrition is extended, it might be made even more effective by trading food surpluses of one country, such as wheat, beef or sugar, for surpluses of other countries, such as cocoa or bananas, to the advantage of the school children in both." (Washington Post)

AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHILE AND ARGENTINA provides for purchase by Chile of 28,000 tons of wheat, 30,000 tons of scrap iron; and by Argentina of 1,000 tons of rolled copper, 40,000 tons of coal and 15,000 tons of nitrate. Three ships of Argentine State merchant fleet will be run between Buenos Aires and Valparaiso until products are exchanged. (Export Trade and Shipper, May 4)

ARGENTINE FRESH FRUIT EXPORTS DECLINE sharply during first quarter of 1942. Excepting apples, the decline was general for all varieties of fruit shipped and reflects the serious war effect on fresh fruit exports. (Official Report from Buenos Aires)

ARGENTINE CORN CROP for 1941-42 season officially estimated at 362 million bushels, as compared with 403 million for 1940-41. Acreage planted for current crop estimated at only 12,355,000 acres, a reduction of 18 percent from comparable figure for previous year, but yield is high. Crop reduction is not great enough to ease surplus situation which has prevailed in Argentina since war began. (Foreign Crops and Markets)

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE 1941-42 SUNFLOWER-SEED CROP, anticipating crop of 1.2 billion pounds from 1.9 million acres, largest area the crop ever recorded. Purchase will be on a "provisional" price basis with possibility of additional payments to growers in event that resale of crop by Government will permit higher net price. Purchase is made conditional on promise by growers to reduce 1942-43 plantings by 30 percent, and not to utilize such acreage reduction for wheat, flaxseed and corn. (Foreign Crops and Markets)

INCREASED BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN ARGENTINA reflected in check clearings and stock exchange transactions for first three months of 1942. Check clearings amounted to 15,077,000 pesos compared with 11,560,000 pesos in corresponding period last year. Transactions on the stock exchange represented 371,717,000 pesos contrasted with 212,067,000 pesos for corresponding quarter in 1941. Tax collections were materially higher, amounting to 281,531,000 pesos compared with 230,907,000 pesos last year. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

ARGENTINA'S OIL OUTPUT SHOWS INCREASE of 9.6 percent over corresponding period last year. Of total output for first three months of this year, State oil wells contributed 3,758,955 barrels and private companies 2,069,541 barrels, compared with 3,394,731 barrels and 1,923,734 barrels, respectively in the corresponding period in 1941. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE HOG SLAUGHTER INCREASES during first quarter, offsetting decline in cattle killings for that period. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL SETS RUBBER EXPORT PRICE of 39¢ a pound, f.o.b. Belém, for Upper Acre fine wash. United States Ambassador Caffery says program to increase Brazilian crude rubber output is "going well, as additional labor is being sent to Amazon areas from the drought-stricken northeast sections of Brazil." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILEAN PRESIDENT SEEKS EXCEPTIONAL ECONOMIC POWERS, promising to concentrate on the stimulation of national production, for which purpose more discipline will be expected of both capital and labor to insure social harmony. President Ríos has appointed commissions to report on collective information and orientation, unemployment, civic and social education and popular provisioning. (Christian Science Monitor)

CUBAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS REDUCED by 15 percent in 1941 from 1940 total. Shipping difficulties blamed for decrease. Cuba's exports of hides also affected. (Digest of Cuban Chamber of Commerce, April 30)

CUBA ESTABLISHES PEANUT PRICE for 1942 crop. Representatives of growers and peanut-oil manufacturers, at conference with Ministers of Agriculture and Commerce, agree that price for next crop will be \$3.36 per 100 pounds in the shell. Prevailing price last year was about \$2.43 per hundred pounds. (Foreign Crops and Markets)

CUBAN MINERAL EXPORTS reach highest record in history of Republic, having achieved a value of \$9,876,356. Manganese ore takes first place, exports amounting to 251,385 kilograms, a total value of \$6,510,131. Chrome, copper and iron follow. (Digest of Cuban Chamber of Commerce, April 30)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS RICE EXPORTER for second successive year, shipping 8,352,000 pounds in 1941. Exports went chiefly to other Latin American countries and Canada. (Foreign Crops and Markets)

HAITI SEEKS SOLUTION to situation caused by failure of delivery of 30,000 tons of sugar sold to Great Britain. Situation further complicated in that British contract precludes sale of sugar in any other market, despite fact that British have failed to provide ships for transport. British are not obligated to finance crop, as payments are provided after delivery. Meanwhile, 19,000 long tons of raw sugar are languishing in warehouse ready for immediate export. Believe Haitian sugar might be taken by U.S. to relieve its own shortage, with an equivalent amount to be shipped to Great Britain later. (Official Report from Port-au-Prince)

HAITI LAUNCHES PROGRAM to increase production of high-grown washed coffee to be sold under specific brand name. Government decree facilitates establishment of new cleaning plants at high elevations. Department of Agriculture states that 400 additional cement drying platforms are being constructed in various districts to improve drying process and eliminate ground taste. Coffee planting season in Haiti started in April, and government has distributed 2,500,000 plants among growers. (Tea and Coffee Trade Journal, April)

MEXICO FACES SHORTAGE OF VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS according to report received from Mexico City. Copra, by far the most important source of oil, has been imported. Now that such imports are no longer available, there will be a serious shortage of oil for use in soap manufacture. Edible oils will not be affected, as they are chiefly produced in Mexico. (Foreign Crops and Markets)

ARSENIC PRODUCTION IN MEXICO amounted to 8,507,818 kilos during first 8 months of 1941; exports amounted to 8,302,000 kilos during same period with bulk of movement going to U.S. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

INCREASED NICARAGUAN RUBBER PRODUCTION seen by Dr. Mariano Argüello, Minister of Foreign Affairs. (N.Y. Times) U.S. buys Nicaraguan rubber through 1946 under agreement signed by Rubber Reserve Company. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

NICARAGUA RATION S GASOLINE, allowing each motor vehicle 5 gallons per week. Unregistered cars cannot obtain gasoline or tires. (N.Y. Times)

NICARAGUAN IPECAC ROOT prices higher, ranging between .2 and .2.10 per pound on New York spot market. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PANAMA-TO-PERU AIR LINE OPENED. Application has been filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board for additional schedules which will permit extension of seventh weekly service through to Buenos Aires. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

U.S.-PERUVIAN TRADE AGREEMENT signed by Secretary of State Hull and David Dasso, Minister of Finance and Commerce of Peru. Agreement effective for two years, subject to extension. Concessions made by Peru on items which in 1940 accounted for 26 percent of its imports from U.S. Principal duty reductions granted to U.S. are on automobiles, trucks and parts; typewriters; certain dried fruits; certain canned fruits and vegetables; walnuts; prepared oats; and fresh apples, pears and plums. Tariff rates are bound against increase on agricultural and mining machinery; wheat flour; sewing machines; plate glass; certain pharmaceutical specialties; and moving picture films. Concessions made by U.S. cover products which in 1940 accounted for 26 percent of total U.S. imports from that country. Principal reductions are on: sugar (reduced from \$1.875 to 93.75 cents per 100 pounds); long-staple cotton (reduced from 7 to 3-1/2 cents per pound but without increasing total amount that may be imported); hair of the alpaca, llama and vicuña; coca leaves; and bismuth. Bound against tariff increases are ground barbasco or cubé root, certain types of flax, and balsa lumber. Several products, principally tropical products, are bound on the free list. (State Department press release)

PRESIDENT MANUEL PRADO OF PERU greeted in Washington by President Roosevelt as he arrives for visit to U.S. war industries. He is first South American president ever to visit U.S. during his term of office. (Washington Post)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 440

May 15, 1942

PREFERENCE GIVEN TO LATIN AMERICA ON VITAL MATERIALS. W.P.B. issues "general exports order" listing almost 100 materials and products as essential to economies of other American republics and declares that Latin American orders for the items are entitled to preferential treatment. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

WAR RISK INSURANCE RATES advanced sharply in Gulf of Mexico. On U.S. Gulf coast-wise shipments and other shipments confined to Gulf of Mexico, the rate was increased from 3/4 percent to 2-1/2 percent. Shipments from U.S. Gulf to east coast of Mexico beyond Yucatan and east coast of Central America and vice versa were increased from 3 percent to 5 percent. (Journal of Commerce)

U.S. ADDS 495 NAMES TO BLACKLIST. Peru leads American list with total of 197, practically all with Japanese names. Second is Chile with 45, and Argentina ranks third with 29 names. (Export Trade and Shipper, May 11)

DIRECT RAIL COFFEE SHIPMENTS FROM MIDDLE AMERICA TO U.S. made possible by bonded service through Suchiate and Chiapas in Mexico, whereby connections are made at the Mexican-Guatemala border with the International Railways, linking cities in Guatemala event of complete drying up of cargo space due to war priorities. (Tea and Coffee Trade Journal, May)

AXIS SUBS IN MEXICAN GULF. Navy announces loss of two vessels, one a U.S., medium-sized vessel, the other a Honduran merchantman, first reported lost in Gulf. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE SHIP TO BE USED AS TRANSPORT to exchange British diplomats in Orient and Japanese leaving Great Britain. (Christian Science Monitor)

ARGENTINA REGISTERS DRUG and pharmaceutical firms, according to report of Ministry of Agriculture. Decree has been issued ordering special registration of all firms and individuals importing, producing or selling medicines, drugs and pharmaceutical supplies, excepting drugstores not holding more than current requirements. Prices and stocks were required to be declared and exports are forbidden without permit. (Export Trade and Shipper)

ARGENTINE EXPORT VOLUME CUT 10 PERCENT for first four months of 1942, compared with corresponding period last year. Analysis of exports show that shipments of agricultural products declined in quantity but increased in value. Pastoral products group show decline owing to heavy slump in wool exports due to shortage of shipping space. Meat exports show material increase in value. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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BEEF SHORTAGE A PROBLEM IN ARGENTINA. Food crisis looms for Castillo Government in view of short supplies due to depopulation of Argentine herds, rising prices, and increased exports. Since the Government refuses to limit exports, it is predicted that it will soon be forced to intervene with subsidies. Agricultural Minister scheduled for early interpellation in Congress, and trade union, regardless of state of siege regulations, have organized a drive against high costs. (Christian Science Monitor)

ARGENTINA BUILDING ROADS FOR TRADE LINK. National Highways Board announces that it is engaged in building a "vast network of roads," to carry out Castillo Government's policy "regarding communications with neighboring countries and construction of improvement of roads leading to oil fields and mines." Trade returns in past 6 months indicate an exchange between Argentina and Chile treble that of normal times. Greatest trade development is with Brazil which has wrested second place from Great Britain among suppliers to Argentina. Relative to Bolivia, Argentina is in a strong bargaining position because it is generous in its provisioning of Bolivia with wheat and meat which that country needs. In return, Argentina expects oil and rubber. (Christian Science Monitor)

SUGAR CANE TO BE DEVELOPED IN COLOMBIA in banana zone. Agronomists will study land, especially in Theobromina region, where work of parceling is proceeding with great rapidity. (Colombia, May)

CUBA ESTABLISHES EXEMPTION from duties and taxes on imports made by Ministry of Agriculture, of machinery, implements, seeds, etc. in connection with Government's activities aimed at increasing agricultural production. (Official Report from Havana)

HOARDING OF U.S. CURRENCY IN CUBA increasing. Federal Reserve Bank of New York discloses shipments of \$1,010,000 to Cuba in April. More than \$6,170,000 in U.S. currency was sent to the island in March. (Christian Science Monitor)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S ECONOMIC SITUATION termed "distinctly favorable" in 1941, despite loss of European markets. Principal developments during year were diversification of agriculture, lessening dependence on sugar, and substantially increased trade with other Caribbean republics and U.S. (Official Report from Ciudad Trujillo)

U.S. BANK ENVOY, Warren Lee Pierson of the Export-Import Bank arrives in Mexico to study mining, railway and steel enterprises that are to be financed by Export-Import Bank. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO GRATIFIED BY TERMS OF OIL SETTLEMENT. Importance is attached to fact that right of expropriation of foreign properties was upheld, that Mexico validated her constitutional claim to national sub-soil riches, and to fact that she has emerged from the controversy with the petroleum industry completely in her hands. (Christian Science Monitor)

PRODUCTION OF MEXICAN METALS ENCOURAGED by agreement between Mexican and United States Governments. Metals Reserve Company agrees to buy during period of accord, copper, lead and zinc in form of metals, or in minerals and concentrates at prices which should stimulate production. The accord expands the July 15, 1941, Douglas-Weichers agreement between the two Governments which provided for over-all purchase of strategic metals. Metals Reserve Company has been directing since early February the work of four geological survey parties which have been working in assigned fields where mining is in process. (Christian Science Monitor)

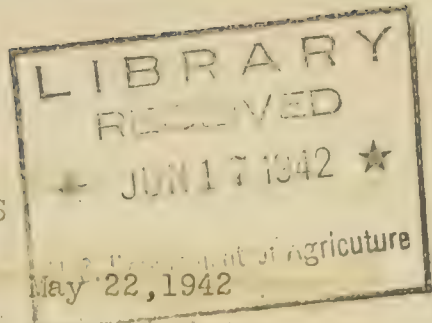
AGRICULTURE EXPERTS TO ASSIST NICARAGUA. Drs. Ross E. Moore, F.A.R., Edwin R. Kinnear, S.C.S., Lee Hines and Theodore Grant, B.P.I., have arrived by plane to assist the Nicaraguan Government in reorganization of agricultural possibilities. Greater diversification of agricultural products is desired, as the country's economic structure is dependent on exportation of coffee and gold. (N.Y. Times)

PAN-AMERICANISM FORMING SOLID POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BLOC, according to President Manuel Prado of Peru. "While the emergency lasts in our continent," he says, "all the natural resources of Peru, its great agricultural, mineral and forest wealth will be mobilized for the closest cooperation in the task of common defense." (Washington Star)

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SPANISH TRADE MISSION ARRIVES IN ARGENTINA to negotiate details of barter pact involving 150,000,000 pesos (roughly \$10,000,000) signed in Madrid March 14. Ostensible purpose of group is to implement pact under which Argentina would send wheat, leather, some frozen meat and other agricultural and food products to Spain in return for manufactured goods. Mission will also discuss means of strengthening Spanish and Argentine merchant marine, possibly through establishment of joint Argentine-Spanish shipping concern. Agreement provides for establishment of airline between the two countries. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

ARGENTINA FINES RUBBER FIRMS 5,000 pesos (approximately \$1,500) for selling products at prices higher than those fixed by Ministry of Agriculture. The four firms are Firestone, Goodyear, Dunlop and Michelin. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

BRAZIL COTTON CROP will amount to 2,073,000 bales, compared with 1940-41 record of 2,508,000 bales, according to preliminary estimates of the Department of Agriculture. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL PLANS CURB ON U.S. CURRENCY in order to counteract an influx of dollars seized by Germans in occupied countries. Bank of Brazil alone will be allowed to import and export North American banknotes. New arrivals in Brazil will be obliged to sell U.S. currency within 15 days. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

BRAZILIAN COFFEE SITUATION benefited by abundant rains which have proved damaging to cotton crop. Notwithstanding the destruction of trees from bad effects of years of drought there is still a sufficient number to yield crops in excess of quantity which customarily enters foreign trade. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

U.S. PURCHASES COLOMBIAN COFFEE for Army use. Purchase comprises 250,000 bags of excess quota stock. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

U.S. IS HEAVIEST BUYER OF CHILE'S SOAP BARK (quillaja), used as a detergent and as an expectorant in early stages of bronchitis. Exports of soap bark to the U.S. increased from 733.3 metric tons in 1940 to 982.3 tons in 1941. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

PRESIDENT BATISTA RECEIVES SPRUILLE BRADEN, new American Ambassador to Cuba, in elaborate ceremony at Presidential Palace. Braden tells President Batista that Cuba and the U.S. "will keep faith by practicing, in their foreign relations, reciprocal confidence and respect for rights of others" in war and peace. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

CUBA ADDS TO LIST OF CHEMICALS which may be imported without prior authorization of Ministry of Defense. (Official Report from Havana)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S SUGAR CROP up 23 percent, 1941-42 crop being estimated at 485,000 long tons compared with 394,000 tons in previous season. Sugar stocks on hand on April 1, 1942 aggregated 220,882 tons, while on the same date in 1941 the stock was 202,469 tons. Late in November 1941, the British Minister of Foods arranged for purchase of the entire 1942 Dominican sugar crop. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZILIAN CEREAL PRICES STABILIZED by Committee of Public Supply. Cereal merchants meet in Porto Alegre and agree not to raise prices so as to avoid including their products in price table adopted by committee. Rice Institute declares itself ready to sell the committee rice at the equivalent of 2-1/3 cents a pound, and committee hands over rice to retailers on this basis. The state government surveys all food stocks in Porto Alegre, and one result is reduction of the price of flour by the equivalent of 20 cents a sack. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

ECUADOR HAT TRADE GAINS. War has given Ecuador practically a monopoly on Panama hat making in the Western Hemisphere. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

HAITI COFFEE EXPORT GAINS. Haiti is shipping practically twice as much coffee to the U.S. as a year ago. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

MEXICAN LABOR URGED IN U.S. FARM SHORTAGE. U.S. Employment Service recommends that 6,000 Mexican laborers be brought into U.S. to meet farm labor shortage in California and other states. Laborers would be brought in under bond, with definite wages fixed after negotiations were completed between U.S. and Mexico. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

MEXICO RELIEVES SHIPPING SHORTAGE as result of agreement between Marine Ministry and Petroleos Mexicanos for its tankers to devote all space not occupied with oil for the movement of foodstuffs and other necessary articles between Mexican ports. Use of tankers in coastwise cargo carrying will start in Gulf from Tampico and Vera Cruz. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO BUYS GUAYULE RUBBER for own needs. Contracts call for delivery to begin November 1; rubber will be refined in a new factory in Torreón, whose output was estimated at from 5,000 to 7,000 tons a year. (Christian Science Monitor)

PERU TO LEND FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHING NEW FOODSTUFF PLANTS, enlarging existing plants and increasing the number of ocean and river vessels engaged in the industry. (Export Trade Shipper)

NICARAGUAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION on Atlantic coast to be established under cooperative arrangement with United States, Nicaraguan Minister of Agriculture announces. (N.Y. Times)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 442

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JUN 2 - 1942
May 29, 1942

U.S. IMPORT BALANCE OF TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA increases 50 percent during first quarter of 1942. In merchandise trade, net imports increase 21 percent. Merchandise import balances were particularly heavy from Argentina and Brazil and export balances were largest in trade with Mexico and Panama. Net importations of gold and silver during first quarter of 1942 doubled in comparison with corresponding period in 1941. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

FLEET OF SCHOONERS FOR LATIN AMERICAN SERVICE announced by New York shipping agents. There has been one recent sailing out of New York for Colombia; and a schooner is scheduled out of Baltimore for Rio in a short time. Insurance rates on these ships are high, but any kind of vessel is welcome in present shipping situation. (Export Trade and Shipper)

LATIN AMERICA GETS RAYON YARN SUPPLIES under WPB order allocating 4 percent of acetate and viscose yarn production for this purpose. Export yarn is going to Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador and Venezuela. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY 65 percent passable to canal, according to E.W. James of the U.S. Public Roads Administration. Remaining 35 percent consists of dirt roads, trails and some jungle. Least passable of entire route is between San José, Costa Rica, and David in northern Panama. One can motor over an excellent paved highway from southern border of Mexico through Guatemala to La Unión in El Salvador. (Export Trade and Shipper)

WAR CUTS SIZE OF ARGENTINE PAPERS since U.S. and Canada, only possible suppliers of newsprint, have no ships to spare for this bulky cargo. Trade committee has been established to advise Government on supplies and distribution of newsprint. (Christian Science Monitor)

ARGENTINA'S GRAIN REGULATING BOARD suspends minimum prices for wheat and linseed of 1940-41 crop. It has also authorized local mills to use 30 percent of the 1941-42 wheat crop for milling, and has established a basic price for the new corn crop. It is believed that the Government will not find itself committed to purchase an enormous amount of corn as in previous years. (Official Report from Buenos Aires)

ARGENTINE TRADE PACT WITH BRAZIL permits importation of 22 million pesos annually in textiles, but due to difficulties in obtaining material from other countries, government will now permit unlimited imports from Brazil up to end of this year. Government intervention has been decreed in all textile factories in country with view to controlling prices. (Export Trade and Shipper - May 25)

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HOG PRODUCTION INCREASES IN ARGENTINA because of low corn prices and heavy export demand for pork. This new Argentine enterprise is characterized by high average prices, record receipts for slaughtering, and a profitable market. Principal factor in greatly increased export movement is contract for shipment to United Kingdom of 88 million pounds of frozen boneless pork during the year ending September 30, 1942. Exports of all kinds of pork to all countries during period 1935-39 averaged only 55 million pounds. (U.S.D.A. press release)

LIVESTOCK LEADS ARGENTINE TRADE. Total exports for first four months of 1942 valued at 581 million pesos, including livestock products valued at 368 million pesos and agricultural products worth 133 million pesos. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILE LIMITS JUNE GAS QUOTA to 5 gallons for private motorists, who are forbidden to use their cars outside city limits without police permit. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

U.S. ARMY PURCHASES COSTA RICAN COFFEE, which disposes of almost all the surplus coffee from the last crop. Costa Rica's quota, which has been 98 percent filled for the U.S., amounts to 227,892 bags. This Army purchase amounts to 22,700 bags. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

AIR EXPRESS SHIPMENTS TO CUBA RESUMED with lifting of embargo on aircraft space to that country. Recently imposed temporary embargo on shipments to Brazil, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Paraguay continues in effect. Requirements of Government for space necessitated embargo on all shipments except those under transportation priority by Government and shipments under Government bills of lading. Shipments destined to Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, Mexico and Middle American countries served by the Pan American Airways System will continue to be accepted and forwarded to international airport involved, as usual. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

AVILA CAMACHO REQUESTS WAR DECLARATION against the Axis. His action and approval by Mexican Congress expected to influence public opinion in support of the war policy, precipitated by the torpedoing of two Mexican tankers. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO'S SUGAR OUTPUT EXPECTED TO HIT NEW HIGH with approximately 400,000 long tons, raw value, as against 315,000 tons manufactured last season. Should current crop approximate expectations, Mexico will complete the year with a surplus of 30,000 tons. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN MERCHANT SEAMEN MAKE "NO STRIKE" PLEDGE to Marine Ministry in order to keep shipping going on both coasts. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

1942 LIME OIL PRODUCTION IN MEXICO expected to exceed 1941 production, which amounted to 110,000 pounds. Demand for lime oil is reflected in better prices, 1941 producers receiving 6 pesos per 100 kilograms in contrast to current March prices of 30 pesos. (Drug and Cosmetic Industry, May)

U.S. OUTLETS IN NICARAGUA INCREASING according to Col. Irving Lindberg who reports that 40 American stores and agencies throughout Nicaragua are selling all kinds of American articles, from pins to tractors. Merchandise from U.S. accounts for 95 percent of all imports, he states. (Export Trade and Shipper)

NATIONAL BANK OF NICARAGUA TO PURCHASE RUBBER for export to U.S. in accordance with recent agreement. Bank announces it will pay at least 20 cents a pound for raw rubber and will send buyers to all rubber producing sections of country. (N.Y. Times)

URUGUAY WINS CARGO SPACE for cooperation with democracies in hemisphere defense. U.S. is making special efforts to fill Uruguay's trade requirements. Larger share of cargo space also is being allotted to Uruguayan exporters in shipments from the Rio de la Plata area to the United States. Argentina's space being cut to satisfy Uruguay's needs. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

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